

**Jim Doyle**  
Governor

**Roberta Gassman**  
Secretary



**State of Wisconsin**

**Department of Workforce Development**

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## **Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board Receives \$50,000 “GROW” Grant**

*Money Will Support Area Workforce Development and Economic Growth*

**Ashland** – Today, Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman announced the Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board, Inc. will receive a \$50,000 Growing Regional Opportunities in Wisconsin (GROW) grant towards workforce development and economic growth.

“Governor Doyle’s *Grow Wisconsin* plan has been a catalyst for regional workforce and economic development, and I applaud the leadership and hard work of the Board and its partners. They are working to bridge geographic boundaries and develop strong relationships with regional economic, government, education, business and labor leaders,” said Secretary Gassman.

GROW funding will allow the Board to work in partnership with the bi-state “Northland Works” regional economic development effort. The partnership will foster closer ties between the business community and the K-12 education system in northwestern Wisconsin and northeastern Minnesota. The project will focus on building our future workforce by establishing work-based learning programs for youth, improving contact between schools and employers, and providing information to students on job opportunities in the region.

“This partnership between the Board and Northland Works will greatly complement the work of the Governor’s Council on Workforce Investment,” said Secretary Gassman. “As we develop our workforce and increase career opportunities, we also strengthen our local economy and excite current and prospective employers.”

The GROW grants were established as part of Governor Doyle’s “Grow Wisconsin” initiative. The funds are available through the state Council on Workforce Investment and are administered by DWD. In 2005, a total of \$465,000 was granted to seven regions to cover the state. An additional \$500,000 is available in 2006 to build upon the successes of the local collaborations to continue to promote regional workforce and economic approaches throughout Wisconsin.

The Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board serves Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Rusk, Taylor and Washburn counties.

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